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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR CITY OF ENCINAL

ENCINAL, TEXAS, June 12, 2006— USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, today announced the City of Encinal has received a \$125,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) to establish a revolving loan fund to be used for at least five new businesses and to assist in the creation of approximately 20 new jobs.

"The injection of funds into the area will be used to establish a revolving loan fund which will help establish and expand businesses in the City of Encinal," said Daniel. "I am very pleased that Texas USDA Rural Development is able to assist the City of Encinal."

In Fiscal Year 2005, Texas USDA Rural Development obligated over \$1.3 million in Rural Business Enterprise Grants. Potential businesses in rural communities interested in the RBEG Program must employ 50 or fewer new employees and have less than \$1 million in gross annual revenues. Public bodies and not-for-profit entities including federally recognized Indian Tribes located in rural areas or in communities below 50,000 in population are eligible for the RBEG Program. Priority is given to applicants from communities of 25,000 or less.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Hebbronville Local Office at (361) 527-3253, Extension 4, or visit our website at http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.